

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet comprising on mass percent basis: 0.01% or less of C; 0.5% or less of Si; 0.3% or less of Mn; 0.01% to 0.04% of P; 0.01% or less of S; ~~[[8%]]~~ 15% to 30% of Cr; 1.0% or less of Al; 0.05% to 0.5% of Ti; 0.04% or less of N, $8 \leq \text{Ti}/(\text{C}+\text{N}) \leq 30$ being satisfied; and the balance being substantially Fe and incidental impurities, wherein a grain size number of ferrite grain is 6.0 or more, and an average diameter D_p of precipitations, each being $[(\text{a long axis length of a Ti base precipitate} + \text{a short axis length thereof})/2]$, of the Ti base precipitates in the steel sheet is in the range of from 0.05 μm to 1.0 μm .
2. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to Claim 1, wherein at least 50% of the total Ti content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.
3. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to Claim 2, wherein at least 50% of the total P content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.
4. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the steel sheet is a hot-rolled steel sheet.
5. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the steel sheet is a cold-rolled steel sheet.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet comprising the steps of: hot-rolling steel which contains on mass percent basis: 0.01% or less of C; 0.5% or less of Si; 0.3% or less of Mn; 0.01% to 0.04% of P; 0.01% or less of S; ~~[[8%]]~~ 15% to 30% of Cr; 1.0% or less of Al; 0.05% to 0.5% of Ti; 0.04% or less of N, $8 \leq \text{Ti}/(\text{C}+\text{N}) \leq 30$ being satisfied; and the balance being substantially Fe and incidental impurities, for forming a hot-rolled steel sheet, and performing recrystallization annealing of the hot-rolled steel sheet at a temperature of (a precipitation nose temperature of Ti base precipitates $\pm 50^\circ\text{C}$) so that an average diameter D_p of precipitation diameters, each being $[(\text{a long axis length of a Ti base precipitate} + \text{a short axis length thereof})/2]$, of the Ti base precipitates in the steel sheet is in the range of from $0.05 \mu\text{m}$ to $1.0 \mu\text{m}$ and so that a grain size number of ferrite grain is 6.0 or more.

7. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to Claim 6, wherein at least 50% of the total Ti content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.

8. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to Claim 7, wherein at least 50% of the total P content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.

9. (Original) The method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet, according to Claim 6, further comprising the steps of: cold-rolling the hot-rolled annealed steel sheet; and subsequently performing final annealing of the cold-rolled steel sheet at a temperature less than (the precipitation nose temperature of Ti base precipitates $+ 100^\circ\text{C}$) so that the average diameter D_p

of precipitation diameters, each being $[(\text{a long axis length of a Ti base precipitate} + \text{a short axis length thereof})/2]$, of the Ti base precipitates is in the range of from $0.05 \mu\text{m}$ to $1.0 \mu\text{m}$ and so that the grain size number of ferrite grain is 6.0 or more.

10. (Original) The method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet, according to Claim 9, wherein the final annealing is performed at a temperature less than (the precipitation nose temperature of Ti base precipitates + 50°C).

11. (Original) The method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet, according to Claim 9 or 10, wherein at least 50% of the total Ti content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.

12. (Original) The method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet, according to Claim 11, wherein at least 50% of the total P content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.